

2.3 Action Area

“Action area” means all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action (50 CFR §402.02). For purposes of this consultation, the action area includes the entire legal Delta, Suisun Marsh, Suisun Bay, and San Francisco Bay; and extends upstream within the channels of the Sacramento and American Rivers below Keswick and Nimbus Dams, respectively (Figure 2-1).

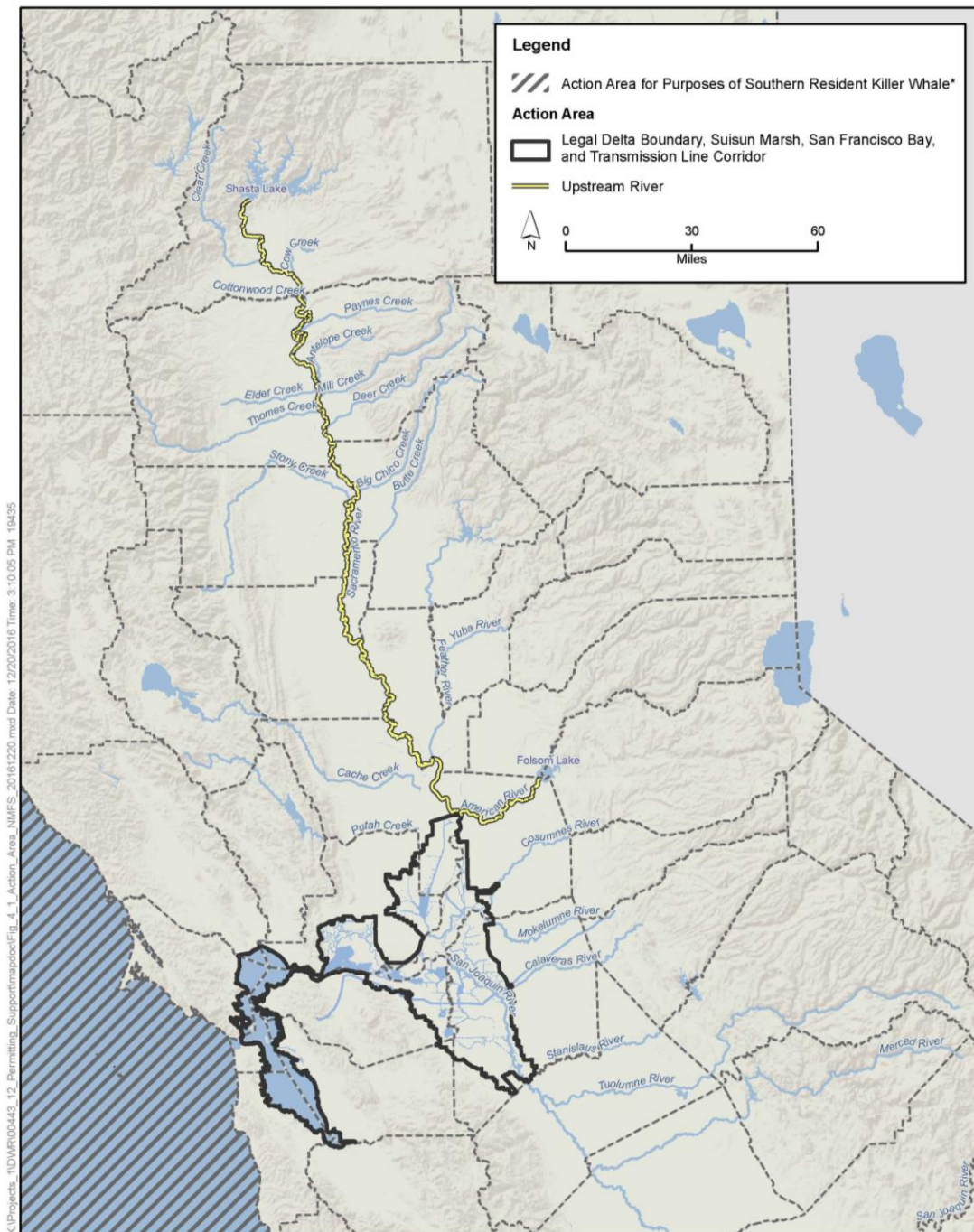


Figure 2-1. California WaterFix Action Area

This document is in draft form, for the purposes of soliciting feedback from independent peer review.

For purposes of the Southern Resident killer whale DPS only, the action area includes nearshore coastal areas in California, Oregon, and Washington (Figure 2-2).

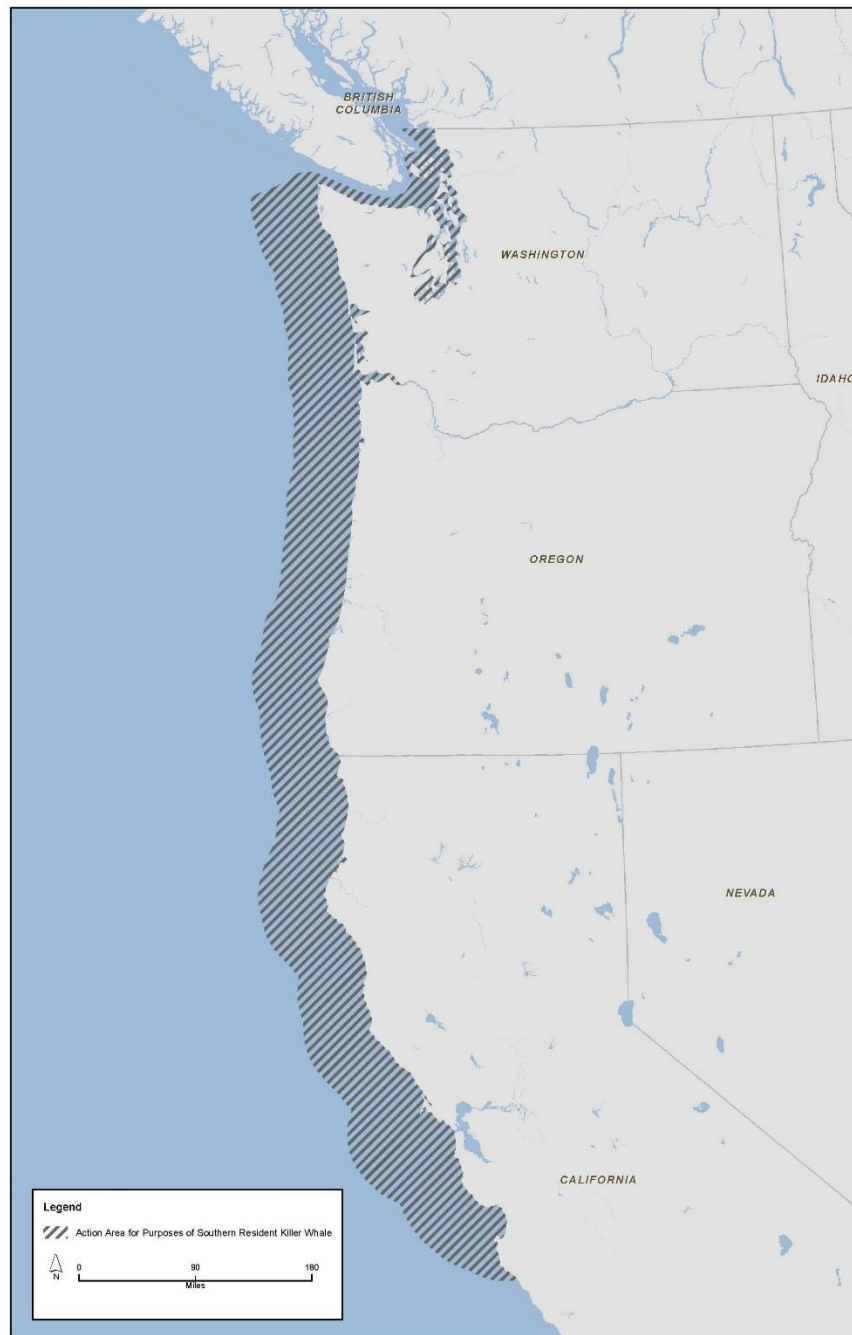


Figure 4-2
California Water Fix Action Area for Purposes of Southern Resident Killer Whale

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The action area was derived considering several factors to account for all effects of the PA. First, to determine the action area for listed fish and their designated critical habitat, the CALSIM II model was used to screen for the extent of potential effects within the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries. Where CALSIM II results did not differ between the PA and NAA conditions, no effect was assumed within the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries. The similarity in CALSIM II results was assumed to indicate that the PA would not have an effect on operations and therefore would not affect species in those areas beyond the existing effects of operations. The action area does not include those areas. This is discussed further in the BA in the introduction to Section 5.4.2, *Upstream Hydrologic Changes*. Additionally, the Feather River system is excluded from the action area due to the existing formal consultation on water operations in that system, as detailed above and in the BA in Section 4.4 *Feather River Operations Consultation*. The entire legal Delta and Suisun Marsh are included in the action area for fish species because the PA may affect any waterway in the Delta or Suisun Marsh. For listed species of wildlife, the entire legal Delta was assumed to account for all of the potential construction effects, including the siting of offsetting measures including habitat restoration. To account for possible origination points of barge traffic serving construction activities as detailed in Section 5.2.3 *Barge Landings* of the BA, San Francisco and intervening waterways (San Francisco Bay) were included in the action area. For the Southern Resident killer whale, all nearshore coastal waters within their range in California, Oregon, and Washington are included in the action area because this distribution identifies the entire area of co-occurrence of Central Valley Chinook salmon and the Southern Resident killer whale.